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## Memorial Hospital of Carbondale Earns High Honor From EPA

Memorial Hospital of Carbondale recently received the "Energy Star" award from the Environmental Protection Agency. Memorial is one of only three hospitals in America to earn this distinction.

To qualify for the award MHC volunteered for the agency's Web-based energy efficiency pilot program for hospitals. Nearly one hundred hospitals participated. Tom Stewart, facilities director, MHC, used the Energy Star rating tool to submit energy performance data to be compared against other hospitals on a nationwide rating scale of 1-to-100. MHC scored over 75 in the pilot. Hospitals with a validated score above 75 are eligible to be designated as an Energy Star building.

Stewart said the receipt of the award was recognition for ongoing energy conservation measures that have become the norm in both the design process and in daily operation of the hospital. Stewart considers conserving energy the, "right thing to do," as it preserves our natural resources and provides lower operating cost for the hospital. Funds that are not required for energy purchases can be used for patient care and new technologies.

Memorial Hospital of Carbondale is no stranger to improving energy efficiency. Since 1979 the hospital has taken many energy-saving steps. Improvements such as installation of a central chilled water system, recovering heat from internal spaces for use elsewhere in the hospital and utilization of a computerized control system have all contributed to ongoing energy savings.

Although the hospital has doubled in size since 1979, the total energy used has increased only slightly. However, it is the daily operation of the facility that yields the greatest results.

"Memorial has developed a vigilant engineering staff, aware of energy use and skilled in preventive maintenance in order to maximize energy efficiency while maintaining patient comfort," Stewart said.

Memorial Hospital is also involved in efforts to make the community more energy efficient. The hospital is an active partner in the Rebuild Carbondale program, with Tom Stewart serving on the advisory committee. Rebuild Carbondale is a collaboration between the Southern Illinois University College of Engineering, the City of Carbondale,



Tom Stewart, facilities director of Memorial Hospital of Carbondale, inspects a computerized building system. MHC energy efficiency and from the Environmental Protection Agency.



and local businesses and organizations in an effort to promote energy conservation to the businesses and citizens of the community. This program is funded by the Department of Energy and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs.

Saving energy at hospitals is a new priority for President Bush and the EPA, which plans to make the Web-based program available to all hospitals. "For the first time, hospitals can compare their energy performance with others nationwide and are eligible to earn and display the Energy Star for highest achievement in adopting energy efficient products and practices," said EPA administrator Christie Whitman. "Allowing hospitals to participate in this program will have an enormous impact on our environment."

The EPA estimates hospitals consume almost 50 billion kilowatt hours of electricity and spend close to \$3 billion each year on electricity alone. By improving efficiency as Memorial Hospital of Carbondale has done, the EPA believes there would be a nationwide savings of \$1 billion and carbon dioxide emission could be reduced by 11 million tons each year—equivalent to taking 2 million cars off the road.

Using EPA's ENERGY STAR website, <http://www.energystar.gov/>, hospitals will be able to analyze the energy performance of their buildings, set goals for improvement, and track their progress online using EPA's portfolio manager. Top performers will be able to display the ENERGY STAR label.



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